

submit an application in which the provider agrees to comply with all MaineCare related laws and regulations. If MaineCare approved the application, the provider was assigned a MaineCare “provider number.” A healthcare provider with a MaineCare provider number could file claims with MaineCare to obtain reimbursement for services rendered to MaineCare beneficiaries.

e. MaineCare would reimburse providers for interpreter services when interpretation services were necessary and reasonable for a provider to communicate effectively with members regarding health needs. Interpreter services were only covered in conjunction with another MaineCare covered service.

f. MaineCare regulations stated that interpreter services were to be billed using a specific code, per 15 minute intervals. MaineCare’s reimbursement rate per 15 minute interval of interpreter services was twenty dollars (\$20).

g. Community Intergration Services (CIS) were allowable services under MaineCare. To be eligible for CIS, a beneficiary had to have a qualifying diagnosis and receive pre-authorization for CIS.

h. Starting in April 2016, MaineCare adopted a change in the qualifying diagnosis criteria for a beneficiary to receive CIS.

i. MaineCare regulations further stated that the provider must include in the member’s record documentation that recorded the date and time of the interpreter service, duration, language used, and name of the interpreter.

j. Individual A was a MaineCare approved provider of healthcare services with a MaineCare provider number. Healthcare services provided by individual A were to be billed in time intervals of 15 minutes.

k. Individual B was a MaineCare approved provider of healthcare services with a MaineCare provider number. Healthcare services provided by individual B were to be billed in time intervals of 15 minutes.

l. Facing Change, P.A. (hereinafter "Facing Change") was a MaineCare provider that was a counseling agency that provided mental health counseling, substance abuse counseling, and CIS.

The Defendants

m. Abdirashid Ahmed, a resident of Lewiston, Maine, performed interpreter services at Facing Change through numerous companies, including On Time Interpretation, LLC, Global Interpreting Services of Maine, LLC, and Gold Star Interpreting LLC. Ahmed was a partner in Global Interpreter Services of Maine, LLC which was formed in approximately September 2015.

n. Garat Osman, a resident of Auburn, Maine, performed some interpreter services for MaineCare beneficiaries. Osman was an owner of Gold Star Interpreting, LLC which was formed in approximately December 2016.

o. Nancy Ludwig, a resident of Winthrop, Maine was the owner of Facing Change where she provided counseling services.

COUNT ONE
Health Care Fraud, 18 U.S.C. § 1347

2. Paragraph 1 of this Superseding Indictment is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

3. From approximately August 2014 through and until at least May 2018, in the District of Maine the defendant,

ABDIRASHID AHMED

did knowingly and willfully execute a scheme to defraud MaineCare, a health care benefit program, and to obtain by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, money or property owned by MaineCare, a health care benefit program as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b), in connection with the delivery of and payment for health care benefits, items and services, by causing to be submitted fraudulent claims for interpreter services.

The Scheme to Defraud

4. It was part of the scheme and artifice that defendant ABDIRASHID AHMED conspired with several MaineCare providers to bill MaineCare for health care and interpreter services that were not provided.
5. It was part of the scheme and artifice that defendant ABDIRASHID AHMED brought MaineCare beneficiaries to various health care providers purportedly for health care for which he or other persons at his direction provided interpreter services.
6. It was further part of the scheme and artifice that defendant ABDIRASHID AHMED caused other persons to submit billings to MaineCare that were false and fraudulent in that the billings for interpreter services were for services not rendered or not rendered for the units billed.
7. It was further part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that defendant AHMED ABDIRASHID did record, and cause others to record, false, fraudulent, and misleading documents and statements in patients' charts to support the overbilling of services.

MANNER AND MEANS OF THE SCHEME TO DEFRAUD

8. To execute the above referenced scheme and artifice, the defendant ABDIRASHID AHMED, used the following manner and means, among others.

9. At various times during the scheme, defendant ABDIRASHID AHMED would refer MaineCare beneficiaries to various MaineCare providers.
10. Defendant ABDIRASHID AHMED then would provide, or purport to provide, interpretation services for the medical visits for the beneficiaries he referred.
11. Defendant ABDIRASHID AHMED then would sign a document which would overstate the number of units of service he actually provided. In addition, defendant ABDIRASHID AHMED signed documents indicating he was the interpreter for a session when he was in fact not the interpreter, or when no interpreter services were provided. Defendant ABDIRASHID AHMED would then provide these documents to the providers so the documents would become part of the patient's file.
12. The MaineCare provider would bill MaineCare for health care services and interpreter services for the units specified on the document ABDIRASHID AHMED signed which was in excess of the service that was actually provided. MaineCare then would reimburse the provider based upon the false and fraudulent billings. The MaineCare provider would then pay defendant ABDIRASHID AHMED or other entities working with him the monies that had been paid by MaineCare for interpreter services.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1347 and 24(b).

COUNT TWO
Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud
18 U.S.C. § 1349

13. Paragraphs 1 and 5 through 7 of this Superseding Indictment are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
14. From at least about August 2014 through and until at least about April 2015, in the District of Maine, the defendant,

ABDIRASHID AHMED

conspired with Provider B to willfully execute, and attempt to execute a scheme or artifice (1) to defraud MaineCare; and (2) to obtain, by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, money and property owned by, or under custody and control of MaineCare in connection with the delivery of or payments for healthcare benefits, items and services, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1347.

PURPOSE OF THE CONSPIRACY

15. The purpose of the conspiracy was for the defendant and the co-conspirator to unlawfully enrich themselves by, among other things:

- a. billing MaineCare, and receiving reimbursement from MaineCare, for healthcare services and interpreter services which services were provided for less duration than billed;
- b. creating false documentation in patient files to conceal their fraudulent conduct.

MANNER AND MEANS

16. It was part of the conspiracy that members of the conspiracy would generate documentation that would make it look like the health treatment and interpretation services lasted a certain duration when in fact the visit had not occurred or lasted a shorter duration.

17. It was a further part of the conspiracy that Individual B would then submit claims for healthcare services and interpreter services to MaineCare with the false information reflected in the records. MaineCare would then reimburse Individual B based upon those false and fraudulent claims.

18. After MaineCare reimbursed Individual B based on the false and fraudulent claims submitted for interpreter services, Individual B would pay these monies to ABDIRASHID AHMED or a business entity owned and controlled by him.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1349 and 1347.

COUNT THREE
Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud
18 U.S.C. § 1349

19. Paragraph 1 of this Superseding Indictment is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

20. From at least about February 2015 through and until at least December 2017, in the District of Maine, the defendants,

ABDIRASHID AHMED
and
GARAT OSMAN

conspired and agreed together, and with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to willfully execute, and attempt to execute a scheme or artifice (1) to defraud MaineCare; and (2) to obtain, by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, money and property owned by, or under custody and control of MaineCare in connection with the delivery of or payments for healthcare benefits, items and services, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1347.

PURPOSE OF THE CONSPIRACY

21. The purpose of the conspiracy was for the defendants and co-conspirators to unlawfully enrich themselves by, among other things:

- a. offering, paying, soliciting, and receiving kickbacks in return for referring
MaineCare beneficiaries to Individual A;

- b. billing MaineCare, and receiving reimbursement from MaineCare, for healthcare services and interpreter services which were either not provided or were provided for less duration than billed;

MANNER AND MEANS

- 22. It was part of this conspiracy that defendant ABDIRASHID AHMED agreed to refer MaineCare beneficiaries to Individual A in return for Individual A paying remuneration to ABDIRASHID AHMED and other conspirators for each person referred.
- 23. It was part of the conspiracy that after ABDIRASHID AHMED and Individual A made this agreement, ABDIRASHID AHMED and GARAT OSMAN brought MaineCare beneficiaries to Individual A purportedly for treatment and ABDIRASHID AHMED, GARAT OSMAN, and other persons would serve as interpreters during these visits.
- 24. It was further part of the conspiracy that members of the conspiracy would generate documentation that was maintained in a patient's file and that would make it look like the health treatment and interpretation services lasted a certain duration when in fact the visit had not occurred or lasted a much shorter duration.
- 25. It was a further part of the conspiracy that Individual A would then submit claims for healthcare services and interpreter services to MaineCare with the false information reflected in the records. MaineCare would then reimburse Individual A based upon those false and fraudulent claims.
- 26. After MaineCare reimbursed Individual A based on the false and fraudulent claims submitted for interpreter services, Individual A would pay these monies to ABDIRASHID AHMED, GARAT OSMAN, or business entities owned and controlled by them.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1349 and 1347.

COUNT FOUR
Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud
18 U.S.C. § 1349

27. Paragraph 1 of this Superseding Indictment is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

28. From at least about February 2015 through and until about at least May 1, 2018, in the District of Maine, the defendants,

ABDIRASHID AHMED
GARAT OSMAN
NANCY LUDWIG

conspired and agreed together, and with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to willfully execute, and attempt to execute a scheme or artifice (1) to defraud MaineCare; and (2) to obtain, by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, money and property owned by, or under custody and control of MaineCare in connection with the delivery of or payments for healthcare benefits, items and services, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1347.

PURPOSE OF THE CONSPIRACY

29. The purpose of the conspiracy was for the defendants and co-conspirators to unlawfully enrich themselves by, among other things:

- a. offering, paying, soliciting, and receiving kickbacks in return for referring MaineCare beneficiaries to Facing Change;
- b. billing MaineCare, and receiving reimbursement from MaineCare, for healthcare services and interpreter services which services were either not provided or were provided for less duration than billed;

MANNER AND MEANS

30. It was part of this conspiracy that in approximately February 2015 defendant ABDIRASHID AHMED solicited remuneration from defendant Nancy Ludwig in return for defendant ABDIRASHID AHMED referring MaineCare beneficiaries to Facing Change.

31. It was part of the conspiracy that after this agreement was made, Facing Change paid 10% of ABDIRASHID AHMED's weekly interpreter billings to defendant ABDIRASHID AHMED, directly and indirectly, for patients he referred to Facing Change

32. It was further part of the conspiracy the defendants ABDIRASHID AHMED and GARAT OSMAN would bring MaineCare beneficiaries to Facing Change purportedly for treatment and ABDIRASHID AHMED, GARAT OSMAN, and other persons would serve as interpreters during these visits.

33. It was further part of the conspiracy that members of the conspiracy would generate documentation that was kept in a patient's file that would make it look like the health treatment and interpretation services lasted a certain duration when in fact the visit had not occurred or lasted a shorter duration.

34. It was a further part of the conspiracy that Facing Change would then submit claims for healthcare services and interpreter services to MaineCare with the false information reflected in the records. MaineCare would then reimburse Facing Change based upon those false and fraudulent claims.

35. After MaineCare reimbursed Facing Change based on the false and fraudulent claims submitted for interpreter services, Facing Change would pay these monies to ABDIRASHID AHMED, GARAT OSMAN or business entities owned and controlled by them or co-conspirators.

36. It was further part of this conspiracy that a co-conspirator altered, or caused another person to alter, invoices for interpreter services that Facing Change provided, or caused to be provided to MaineCare. The interpreter invoices were altered to remove the 10% remuneration that Facing Change was paying defendant ABDIRASHID AHMED.

37. It was further part of this conspiracy that after MaineCare changed the eligibility requirements for CIS in 2016, Nancy Ludwig diagnosed patients that ABDIRAHID AHMED had referred with a new diagnosis so that those patients would remain eligible for CIS.

38. It was further part of the conspiracy that defendant Nancy Ludwig and other conspirators created and caused other persons to create false and misleading entries in patients' files.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1349 and 1347.

COUNT FIVE

18 U.S.C. § 371 - Conspiracy to Receive and Pay Health Care Kickbacks

39. From about May 2015, and continuing thereafter up to approximately December 2017, in the District of Maine,

**ABDIRASHID AHMED
and
GARAT OSMAN**

conspired and agreed together, and with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit certain offense against the United States, that is to violate Title 42, United States Code, Section 1320a-7b, by knowingly and willfully soliciting and receiving remunerations, specifically money, directly and indirectly, in return for referring individuals for the furnishing and arranging the furnishing of services for which payment may be made by a Federal health care program, that is, MaineCare.

Purpose of the Conspiracy

40. It was a purpose of the conspiracy for Defendants ABDIRASHID AHMED and GARAT OSMAN and their co-conspirators to unlawfully enrich themselves by paying and receiving kickbacks in exchange for the referral of MaineCare beneficiaries for whom Individual A would submit claims to MaineCare.

Manner and Means

40. The manner and means by which the conspiracy was sought to be accomplished included, among others, the following:

41. Paragraphs 1 and 22 through 26 of this Superseding Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Overt Acts

42. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to effect the objects thereof, the following overt acts were committed in the District of Maine:

- a. On about August 17, 2015, Abdirashid Ahmed received a payment of \$4,700 from Individual A in exchange in part for Abdirashid Ahmed sending MaineCare beneficiaries to Individual A for services.
- b. On about November 2, 2015, Individual A paid Global Interpreter Services of Maine a payment of \$6200 in exchange in part for Abdirashid Ahmed sending MaineCare beneficiaries to Individual A for services.
- c. On about July 22, 2016, Abdirashid Ahmed received the payment of \$6,200 from Individual A in exchange in part for Abdirashid Ahmed sending MaineCare beneficiaries to Individual A for services.

- d. On about January 11, 2017 Abdirashid Ahmed received the payment of \$6,600 from Individual A in exchange in part for Abdirashid Ahmed sending MaineCare beneficiaries to Individual A for services.
- e. On about January 25, 2017, Individual A paid Gold Star Interpreting Services of Maine Services a payment of \$6200 in exchange in part for Abdirashid Ahmed sending MaineCare beneficiaries to Individual A for services.
- f. On December 18, 2017, Individual A paid Gold Star Interpreting Service a payment of \$720 in exchange in part for Abdirashid Ahmed sending MaineCare beneficiaries to Individual A for services.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

COUNT SIX

18 U.S.C. § 371 - Conspiracy to Receive and Pay Health Care Kickbacks

43. From about February 2015, and continuing thereafter up to approximately May 2016, in the District of Maine,

**ABDIRASHID AHMED
and
NANCY LUDWIG**

conspired and agreed together, and with others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to commit certain offense against the United States, that is to violate Title 42, United States Code, Section 1320a-7b, by knowingly and willfully soliciting and receiving remunerations, specifically money, directly and indirectly, in return for referring individuals for the furnishing and arranging the furnishing of services for which payment may be made by a Federal health care program, that is, MaineCare.

Purpose of the Conspiracy

44. It was a purpose of the conspiracy for Defendants ABDIRASHID AHMED, NANCY LUDWIG, and their co-conspirators to unlawfully enrich themselves by paying and receiving kickbacks in exchange for the referral of MaineCare beneficiaries for whom Facing Change would submit claims to MaineCare.

Manner and Means

45. The manner and means by which the conspiracy was sought to be accomplished included, among others, the following:

Paragraphs 1 and 30 through 38 of this Superseding Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Overt Acts

46. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to effect the objects thereof, the following overt acts were committed in the District of Maine:

- a) On about February 27, 2015, ABDIRASHID AHMED received a payment of \$1892 from Facing Change which payment in part was in exchange for ABDIRASHID AHMED sending MaineCare beneficiaries to Facing Change for services.
- b) On about April 24, 2015, ABDIRASHID AHMED received a payment of \$2090 from Facing Change which payment in part was in exchange for ABDIRASHID AHMED sending MaineCare beneficiaries to Facing Change for services.
- c) On about February 25, 2016, ABDIRASHID AHMED received a payment of \$4742 from Facing Change which payment in part was in exchange for ABDIRASHID AHMED sending MaineCare beneficiaries to Facing Change for services.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

COUNTS SEVEN-TWENTY
42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b
Receiving Health Care Kickbacks

47. Paragraph 1 of this Superseding Indictment is realleged and incorporated by reference as if set forth herein.

48. On about the dates enumerated below, in the District of Maine, the defendant enumerated below did knowingly and willfully receive monetary remuneration, directly and indirectly, in return for referring individuals for the furnishing and arranging the furnishing of services for which payment may be made in whole or in part by MaineCare:

COUNT	DEFENDANT	ON OR ABOUT DATE
7	ABDIRASHID AHMED	August 17, 2015
8	ABDIRASHID AHMED	February 27, 2015
9	ABDIRASHID AHMED	April 24, 2015
10	ABDIRASHID AHMED	November 2, 2015
11	ABDIRASHID AHMED	December 31, 2015
12	ABDIRASHID AHMED	January 29, 2016
13	ABDIRASHID AHMED	February 5, 2016
14	ABDIRASHID AHMED	February 12, 2016
15	ABDIRASHID AHMED	March 1, 2016
16	ABDIRASHID AHMED	May 6, 2016
17	ABDIRASHID AHMED	July 22, 2016
18	ABDIRASHID AHMED	January 4, 2017
19	GARAT OSMAN	January 25, 2017
20	GARAT OSMAN	December 18, 2017

All in violation of Title 42, United States Code Section 1320a-7b (b)(1).

COUNTS TWENTY ONE-TWENTY FIVE
42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b
Offering/Paying Health Care Kickbacks

49. On about the dates enumerated below, in the District of Maine, the defendant,

NANCY LUDWIG

did knowingly and willfully offer to pay and pay monetary remuneration to ABDIRASHID AHMED, to induce him to refer MaineCare beneficiaries to Facing Change for the furnishing of counseling and CIS, for which payment may be made in whole or in part by MaineCare:

COUNT	ON OR ABOUT DATE
21	December 31, 2015
22	January 29, 2016
23	February 5, 2016
24	February 12, 2016
25	May 6, 2016

All in violation of Title 42, United States Code, Section 1320a-7b (b)(2).

COUNT TWENTY-SIX
False statement relating to a health care benefit program
19 U.S.C. § 1035

50. Paragraph 1 of this Superseding Indictment is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

51. On about December 14, 2016, in the District of Maine, the defendant,

NANCY LUDWIG

did make and use materially false writings and documents knowing the same contained materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements, in connection with the delivery of or payment for health care benefits, items, and services involving MaineCare.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1035.

COUNT TWENTY - SEVEN
Obstruction of a Federal Audit
18 U.S.C. § 1516

52. Paragraph 1 of this Superseding Indictment is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein

53. On about December 14, 2016, in the District of Maine, the defendant,

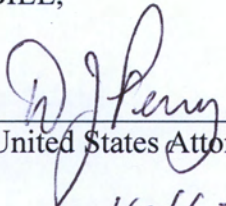
NANCY LUDWIG

with the intent to deceive and defraud the United States, endeavored to influence, obstruct, and impede a Federal auditor, to-wit, a MaineCare fraud auditor/investigator, in the performance of official duties.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1516

Signature redacted. Original on file.

A TRUE BILL,



Assistant United States Attorney



GRAND JURY FOREPERSON

Dated: 11-16-18